

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for subduing a fire comprising the steps of:
moving a vehicle supporting a jet engine to a location in front of the fire;
operating the jet turbine to draw surrounding, ambient air therein and
therethrough to form an exhaust;
directing the exhaust either directly at or in front of the front wall of the flames of
the fire, and not above the fire;
stabilizing the vehicle and jet engine by countering the exhaust of the jet engine
with an adjustable counterbalancing mechanism separate and independent from the turbine and
secured to the vehicle that optionally changes the center of mass of the vehicle; and,
forcing pressurized generally inert particulate under pressure into the exhaust of
the turbine from a separate retardant supply tank, the particulate generally not reacting with
foliage or animals if left in place after subduing the fire and further.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the dust is selected
from the group consisting of: granite dust, limestone dust, and fine sand.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of introducing a
first retardant includes forcing pressurized generally inert particulate under pressure into the
exhaust of the turbine from a separate retardant supply tank into the exhaust.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the first retardant is directed into the
exhaust through a pressurized conduit having an opening proximate the exhaust.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further including the step of
dousing the fire with either or both water and a second retardant.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the fire is a forest or brush fire and the
second retardant is a chemical flame retardant.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the front wall of the fire is a moving front of the fire and the exhaust is directed generally against the movement of the front of the fire.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for subduing a fire comprising the steps of:
moving a vehicle supporting a jet engine to a location in front of the fire;
operating the jet turbine drawing surrounding, ambient air therein and
therethrough to form an exhaust;
directing the exhaust into a moving front wall of the fire, generally against the
movement of the front wall of the fire;
stabilizing the vehicle and jet engine by countering the exhaust of the jet engine
with an adjustable counterbalancing mechanism separate and independent from the engine and
secured to the vehicle that optionally changes the center of mass of the vehicle;
forcing generally inert particulate under pressure into the exhaust of the turbine
from a separate retardant supply tank, the particulate generally not reacting with foliage or
animals if left in place after subduing the fire; and,
dousing the fire with either or both water and a retardant.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the dust is selected from the group consisting of: granite dust, limestone dust, and fine sand, the fire is a forest or brush fire and the retardant is a chemical flame retardant, and the dust is directed into the exhaust through a pressurized conduit having an opening proximate the exhaust.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for subduing a fire comprising the ~~step of~~ steps of:
moving a vehicle supporting a turbine to a location in front of the fire;
operating the turbine to draw surrounding, ambient air therein and therethrough to
form an exhaust;

directing exhaust of [[a]] the turbine into an area just in front of a front wall of the fire to dislodge material from land near the fire causing the dislodged material to disperse into the fire; and,

stabilizing the vehicle and turbine by countering the exhaust of the turbine with an adjustable counterbalancing mechanism separate and independent from the turbine and secured to the vehicle that optionally changes the center of mass of the vehicle.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the front wall of the fire is a moving front of the fire and the exhaust is directed generally against the movement of the front wall of the fire.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the material is dust and the turbine is a jet turbine.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 14 further including the step of dousing the fire with either or both water and a retardant.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the fire is a forest or brush fire and the retardant is a chemical flame retardant.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for subduing a fire comprising:
a vehicle;
a turbine affixed to the vehicle having an exhaust;
a generally inert particulate forced under pressure into the exhaust from a separate retardant supply tank, the particulate generally not reacting with foliage or animals if left in place after subduing the fire; and,

an adjustable counterbalancing mechanism separate and independent from the turbine and affixed to the vehicle to counteract the force of the exhaust and stabilize the vehicle and the jet engine by optionally changing the center of mass of the vehicle.

23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein the counterbalancing mechanism includes a weight and a powered cylinder attached to the weight for moving the weight to the desired position.

24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22 further including a support affixed to the vehicle for the turbine permitting the turbine to rotate in multiple planes.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22 further including at least two fuel tanks connected to the turbine and a plurality of pumps for transferring fuel to the turbines.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22 further including an adjustable nozzle connected to the turbine.

27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22 further including:
a supply of a retardant;
a conduit connected to the supply of retardant for transporting the retardant into the exhaust; and,
a compressor for forcing the retardant through the conduit.

28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the retardant is dust.

29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein the dust is selected from the group consisting of: granite dust, limestone dust, and fine sand.

30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27 further including a moveable crane boom affixed to the vehicle and an adjustable nozzle attached to the crane, the retardant being supplied to the nozzle.

31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 30 further including an exhaust tube affixed to an outlet of the turbine, directing the exhaust to a position proximate the nozzle.

32. (New) An apparatus for subduing a fire comprising:
a vehicle;
a turbine affixed to the vehicle having an exhaust;
a generally inert particulate forced under pressure into the exhaust from a separate retardant supply tank, the particulate generally not reacting with foliage or animals if left in place after subduing the fire; and,

an adjustable counterbalancing mechanism separate and independent from the turbine affixed to the vehicle to optionally change the center of mass of the vehicle and counteract the force of the exhaust and stabilize the vehicle and the jet engine,

the counterbalancing mechanism comprising:

a moveable weight separated from the turbine and at least one powered cylinder attached to the moveable weight for moving the weight relative to the vehicle to counteract a force created by the exhaust.

33. (New) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the movable weight comprises:

a cylinder capable of extending and retracting pivotably attached at one end to the vehicle and at the other end to a heavy object;

a pivotable connection between the heavy object and the vehicle so that as the cylinder extends and retracts, the heavy object pivots about the pivotable connection.

34. (New) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the movable weight comprises:

a cylinder capable of extending and retracting attached at one end to the vehicle and at the other end to a heavy object;

a mount secured to the vehicle for supporting the heavy object so that as the cylinder extends and retracts, the heavy object moves relative to mount.